



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Virginia

PAUL J. McNULTY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

2100 Jamieson Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703/299-3700
FAX 703/299-3981

News Release

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For Information Contact:
Sam Dibbley (703-299-3822)

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the guilty plea and sentencing today of Abhay Vivek Aggroia, age 50, a Woodbridge, Virginia, doctor charged with one count of illegally distributing oxycodone (Percocet) to a female patient, with whom he had inappropriate physical contact on several occasions during medical visits in his office. Senior Judge Leonard Wexler sentenced Aggroia to five years of probation and found that the doctor had abused his position of trust in treating his patient.

Doctor Aggroia has been licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia since July 1997, specializing in internal medicine. From 2004 to the present, Aggroia has maintained a medical practice in Woodbridge, Virginia.

During in or about June 2004 to January 2005, on several occasions in his office, Aggroia required a female patient to perform oral sex on him before giving her Percocet prescriptions during the visits. During the time she saw Aggroia, she became increasingly dependent and addicted to the Percocet. Dr. Aggroia also used very graphic and offensive language during the moments of inappropriate contact.

The specific drug trafficking charge to which the defendant pled guilty stated that on or about December 21, 2004, the defendant issued a prescription for 40 Percocet pills to his patient, an amount that was outside the bounds of medicine and for no legitimate medical purpose.

This case is part of an Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF") investigation (Operation "Cotton Candy"), which has been focusing on the nationwide illegal distribution by about 60-80 doctors, pharmacists, and patients of pain medication, including the very potent, expensive, and widely-abused oxycodone, also known as "OxyContin," "Oxy," "O.C.," "Percocet," "Killer," and "Coffin."

To date, there have been approximately 60 convictions or guilty pleas from cooperating dealers, many of whom were patients or associated with major targeted doctors, including nationally-known Dr. William Eliot Hurwitz, who had 500 patients from 39 states, D.C., and Canada. In April 2005, Dr. Hurwitz was sentenced by Senior Judge Leonard Wexler to 25 years after a jury found him guilty of 50 counts of drug trafficking and causing one death and two non-fatal overdoses. Dr. Hurwitz prescribed one patient 1,600 oxycodone pills per day.

Operation Cotton Candy was a result of the investigative efforts and support of the Virginia State Police; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Drug Enforcement Administration; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations Division; and Fairfax, Fauquier, and Prince William County Police Departments, as well as numerous other state and local law enforcement agencies in Virginia and elsewhere.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gene Rossi and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Marla Tusk handled the prosecution for the United States.

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